

Serial No. 09/813,962

Docket No.: 1614.1148

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims have been amended to improve form and to clarify salient features of the invention, but without the introduction of new matter. Accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amended claims are respectfully submitted.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-5, 8-11 and 14-17 are rejected.

Claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 are objected to, but are indicated to be allowable if suitably rewritten to independent form.

ITEMS 1-11: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2, 3, 5, 8-11 AND 15-17 FOR ANTICIPATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) BY SITARAMAN ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,427,170)

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sitaraman discloses an IP management system that uses a publisher-subscriber system including a CORBA-based information broker, so as to deliver or transmit events published by a publisher to one or more subscribers (col. 7, lines 22-29).

Although Sitaraman discloses that the primary mother cache maintains an IP address database and a user record database in col. 9, lines 48-67, Sitaraman does not suggest therein, or elsewhere, obtaining and storing "configuration information of hardware and software" of terminals.

Sitaraman discloses, in col. 19, lines 3-62, that a controller memory publisher publishes to subscribers the contents of a control memory over an information bus. This description corresponds to col. 9, lines 34-37, for example, in which "publish" in Sitaraman appears to mean sending events to network controller 30. Thus, Sitaraman does not disclose or even suggest either the claimed "generation part" or the claimed "distribution part" of independent claim 2.

In like fashion, independent claim 8 presents recitations of a "collection part" relating to collection of such configuration information of hardware and software and of a "send part" which sends such "configuration information of hardware and software and said user information to said remote maintenance apparatus..." which likewise are neither disclosed nor suggested by Sitaraman.

Similarly, independent claim 11 recites "obtaining", "setting" and "controlling" parts which respectively obtain, set and execute "configuration information of hardware and software" -- which are neither disclosed or suggested by Sitaraman.

Independent claims 15, 16 and 17 respectively contain corresponding recitations of

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functions relating to "configuration information of hardware and software" which are neither disclosed nor suggested by Sitaraman and thus patentably distinguish thereover.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections of Items 1-11 are without basis and should be withdrawn.

ITEMS 12-15: REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1, 4 AND 14 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER SITARAMAN IN VIEW OPOCZYNSKI, (U.S. PATENT 5,655,068) TAKEN FURTHER IN VIEW OF TONELLI ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,229,540)

The rejections are respectively traversed.

As mentioned above, Sitaraman does not suggest obtaining and storing "configuration information of hardware and software of terminals." In addition, although Sitaraman discloses a database holding IP address information including IP addresses currently allocated to users (col. 9, lines 58-61), Sitaraman does not suggest "bringing said configuration information of hardware and software into correspondence with generation information" as set forth in each of claims 1 and 14 and inherited into dependent claim 4/1.

Item 13 alleges that such a teaching regarding "generation information" is present in Sitaraman at col. 9, lines 48-67, but no reference appears therein to any "generation information" -- which the Action, moreover, appears incorrectly to equate merely to the expression of a "database for the system...." While a "database" is identified at different locations in the cited lines 48-67 of col. 9, no reference appears therein to "generation information".

Moreover, Item 13 concedes that Sitaraman does not teach a "second obtaining part which obtains configuration information..." and accordingly relies on Opoczynski, citing specifically the abstract and col. 4, line 44 -- col. 5, line 5. However, nowhere therein is there any reference to "configuration information" and thus no capability, or disclosure, of "identifying the newest configuration information of hardware and software of said failed terminal...." which the Action purports to be present therein.

At page 9 of the Action, Tonelli et al. is only relied on for teaching an extraction part, citing to col. 22, lines 8-29 and col. 4, lines 28-45. No reference is found therein to any "extraction part", much less to the functions to which that claimed extraction part relates, as set forth in the independent claims 1 and 14.

Furthermore, *prima facie* obviousness of the combinations of Sitaraman et al. with Opoczynski and Tonelli et al. have not been established, satisfying the strict standards required therefore by MPEP 2143-2143.03. No motivation has been identified in any of the references for proposing a combination with another, and the action presents no "reasonable expectation of

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success..." arising out of the proposed combinations.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the references of record, taken singularly or any proper combination and, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

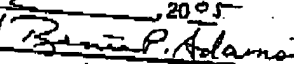
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